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**BAKERSFIELD TRUCK DRIVER INDICTED FOR RECEIPT AND
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging MICHEL LAVERN GROVES, 62, of Bakersfield, California, with receiving and possessing child pornography. The indictment alleges that from November 30, 2002, until October 5, 2006, GROVES received and was in possession of images involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

According to court documents previously filed in this case, the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began its investigation when information was received from ICE federal agents in New Jersey that movies and still images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors were being purchased from illegal websites. Investigation revealed that one of the subscribers of the illegal images was located at GROVES' residence. A federal search warrant was executed on his computer hard drives on October 5, 2006. Forensic examination revealed numerous images of child pornography contained on GROVES' computer hard drives and CD's.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the indictment, GROVES faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment for receipt of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Possession of child pornography is punishable for up to 10 years in prison. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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